

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Tuesday, October 12, 2010
5:30 PM

Present: J. Tibbetts, MD, Patricia Bacelis Leon, Harold Pfothenhauer,
Mary Scray

Excused: Audrey Murphy, Joe Van Deurzen

Absent: Don Murray

Staff Present: Judy Friederichs, John Paul, Ricki Krautkramer

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA

No changes to the agenda were proposed.

MOTION: To approve the agenda. Pfothenhauer / Bacelis-Leon

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2010

MOTION: To approve. Pfothenhauer / Bacelis-Leon

MOTION CARRIED

4. ODOR ISSUES UPDATE

John Paul reported that three complaints have been called in since the last Board of Health meeting. Two of those complaints were neighbors complaining about neighbors, the third was regarding Packerland Packing. None of the three could be verified. There have been a total of 14 complaints so far this year.

5. PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET PROCESS UPDATE

Judy reported that, since the budget was submitted the County Executive had to cut another \$12,000 from the proposed Health Department budget. This was cut from the overtime budget. Because staff are paid for

compensatory time not used in the following year, it will count toward our overtime budget in 2011. Comp time was high this year because of H1N1 – staff were working so much time at clinics that they were not able to use the time. In order to cut that \$12,000 we will not be able to schedule immunization clinics past regular office hours nor will staff be able to respond to odor complaints after hours. Only issues that present public health threat will be addressed outside of regular hours.

The next step in the process will be the Human Services Committee meeting on October 27th. The Board of Supervisors budget meeting will be November 8th.

Mary asked if clinics can be scheduled during the work day. Ricki responded that the clinics have been scheduled from 3:00 – 5:30 to accommodate working families. Mary asked if staff hours can be staggered to continue staffing later clinics. Judy said that the sanitarians' contract indicates that their work hours are 8:00 – 4:30. Our analyst in Human Resources has said that occasional exceptions can be made for nurses, aides and clerical staff but this statement did not seem to imply that it could be a regular practice. Judy plans to talk to Debbie Klarkowski to make sure that this information is accurate.

Mary said that she will be talking with Human Resources also regarding staff alternating their schedule for after-hours clinics so that the overtime budget can be freed up for odor complaints since the sanitarians' contract does not allow for varied schedules.

Mary said that she feels that there will be more cuts to the budget when the County Board addresses it, so if Judy can find a way to cut the overtime it would help. Judy said that the \$12,000 in overtime was already cut from the Executive's proposal but that she cannot budget zero overtime since we need to plan for unforeseen emergencies. She further stated that there are much more urgent public health issues than odor complaints that could arise without warning.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Judy asked Ricki to report on teen pregnancy. Ricki distributed data from 2008 since the 2009 is not yet available. She reported that Green Bay has the 3rd highest teen pregnancy rate in the state. There were three births to children under 15 in 2008.

The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Committee did a community readiness survey with key stakeholders in the community. The goal was to measure the perception of the problem among people in the community who are not healthcare providers. The conclusion was that there is not

much of an awareness about teen pregnancy outside of healthcare circles. Until there is a concern about the problem among the community, it's hard to make an impact.

The committee will be providing informational materials to places like schools, community centers, etc. to get the word out about what community leaders and average citizens can do to help. Some of the materials include suggestions for families on things they can do with their children to reduce their risk of teen pregnancy. The committee feels that the biggest impact can be made if teens can see their self-worth and potential – and families are the most effective in building that self-esteem. Ricki pointed out that there is a very strong family connection to teen pregnancy – if a teen's parent was pregnant at a young age, they are much more likely to end up in the same situation themselves.

Ricki said that the existing programs in Brown County that are geared toward preventing second pregnancies are very effective. Once a teen has one child, they are much more likely to have another.

Dr. Tibbetts asked if the statistics include the Oneida Nation. Ricki said that they do if the people live in Brown County. He further asked if the Wise Women Gathering Place are involved in the committee – Ricki said that they are. She said that they are grant-funded, so their activities are somewhat dictated by their funders. They are now promoting a program where they work with children in the classroom exploring what they are looking at in a mate. That program was extremely successful where it was implemented but is very expensive to run.

Dr. Tibbetts asked about statistics that look at the cost of pregnancy vs. the cost of the program Ricki referred to. Ricki said that there are statistics, but prevention is a hard sell.

Patricia asked if there was anyone from the school district involved in the committee. Ricki said that Jean Herman from GBPS is very involved. There are also committee members from Catholic Charities, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club. There are a lot of young people taking leadership roles in the committee.

Harold asked if the health classes in high school teach pregnancy prevention. Ricki said the curriculum varies widely from school to school and teacher to teacher. She said that the faith-based community also plays a role in addressing underlying issues other than birth control that can impact teen pregnancy. Parents are surprisingly supportive, as much as they can be.

Dr. Tibbetts asked if there were statistics regarding the number of pregnancies that go to term vs. the number that are aborted. Ricki said that those statistics are available by county but you have to pay for them. There are estimated pregnancy rates vs. estimated birth rates – but those are not necessarily accurate.

Dr. Tibbetts and Mary commented that there is some comfort in the fact that the problem has not gotten worse.

Judy distributed flu clinic schedules to board members. Ricki said that not all of the state-supplied vaccine has arrived yet, and about 60% of paid vaccine has arrived. She is sharing vaccine with some high-risk groups until their vaccine arrives. There are two clinics scheduled in October, both are completely booked. Suppliers are promising 75% of vaccine by the end of October and the rest by mid-November. The delay this year has to do with labeling of the vaccine vials because they are not all latex-free as was previously believed.

Judy said that there is a flu vaccine this year for older people. It is not being provided by our department, but it will be available at some clinics and nursing homes. The vaccine provides a higher level of immunity for people who don't develop immunity as well from the regular vaccine.

Judy reported on a couple of Norovirus outbreaks in longterm care facilities; 27 people were ill. Health department staff helped the with infection control. She also reported on 24 cases of an enterovirus among middle school-age children. Symptoms included fever, chills, rash and abdominal pain; three developed/ recovered from viral meningitis, which is not uncommon with this virus.

Judy reported on the progress of the CHIP process. CHIP stands for Community Health Improvement Process. She is working with 40 partners reviewing data and choosing focus areas. They expect to establish public health priorities by February.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

Dr. Tibbetts addressed some documents that were sent to board members regarding wind turbines. He said that the letter from Lauren Azar was particularly interesting as was the minority report from the Wind Siting Commission. He feels that it was very well written and objective. He said that the low frequency sound issue was not well addressed by the committee.

Mary asked if the setback recommended by the Board of Health were what ended up in the rules. Dr. Tibbetts said that the rules for people who

are allowing the turbines to be sited on their property are 1.5 times the height of the turbine so that turbines won't land on a home if they tip over. The setback distance for a non-participating land owner are longer.

The energy committees of the state senate and assembly have meetings next Wednesday. Members of the local citizens' group and Pat Evans will be going down to testify at those meetings. He said that there is nothing that has been addressed regarding the Karst features in Brown County.

Dr. Tibbetts handed out two additional documents regarding studies done in Vermont regarding how the topography and icing on the blades can amplify the noise that the turbines produce. The doctor who conducted the studies also refers to the infrasound effect on people living near turbines.

Judy brought up an article that was included in board members' packets from the NACCHO newsletter. They encourage advocating for alternative energy sources to address issues with environmental causes of issues.

Dr. Tibbetts said that the article refers to questionable things such as global warming. All of the alternate energy sources referred to in the article require a backup such as coal, gas, oil or nuclear.

Judy said that NACCHO (National Association of City and County Health Officials) is a well-respected organization which advocates for public health and provides an accreditation process for health departments. They have done a lot to support local departments in encouraging evidence-based practice.

Judy handed out the August communicable disease provisional data for Brown County, De Pere and Oneida. She also distributed a newsletter regarding the state health plan.

8. ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING

MOTION: To adjourn, at 6:45 PM

Pfotenhauer / Scray

MOTION CARRIED